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April 11, 2014

To:

Education and Local Government Committee

From:

Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI

Subject:

Financial Data reported by School Districts to OPI

The Education and Local Government Committee has asked about how schools districts are spending their SB 175 money in FY 2014. Specifically, the committee asked for a report on how districts are spending their Data for Achievement payment and the increase in the basic entitlement (above inflation).

The short answer is that, at the end of the school year, while school districts will report to OPI on how they spent their general fund money, we will not know how they spent specific state payments within the general fund. School districts are not required to report at a level of detail that would explain how they spend specific state payments such as the Data for Achievement payment or the additional basic entitlement. For the most part, revenues that go into the district general fund are unrestricted.

Within the school district general fund, there are two programs for which OPI collects program-specific information. These programs are special education and Indian Education for All.

- For special education expenditures, districts have both matching requirements and maintenance of effort requirements.
- The section of statute (20-9-329, MCA) that establishes the Indian Education for All payment, states that "A public school district that receives an Indian education for all payment may not divert the funds to any purpose other than curriculum development, providing curriculum and materials to students, and providing training to teachers about the curriculum and materials. A public school district shall file an annual report with the office of public instruction, in a form prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction, that specifies how the Indian education for all funds were expended."

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The remaining monies that are deposited into the general fund are unrestricted. While there are multiple components of the school funding formula, these payments are pooled in the general fund and are available for the overall operation of the school district and allocated as the school leadership (trustees and administrators) deem appropriate. The basic entitlement, per-ANB entitlement, quality educator payment, at-risk student payment, American Indian achievement gap payment, and data for achievement payment are not limited to certain expenditure categories and the school district is not required to track the expenditure of these revenues separately from other general fund revenues.



Budgeted Fund Statewide Totals

| Fund F | Y14 Adopted Budgets |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| General | \$ 1,015,406,058 |
| Transportation | \$ 91,014,315 |
| Bus Depreciation | \$ 50,940,009 |
| Tuition | \$ 5,441,342 |
| Retirement | \$ 164,383,405 |
| Adult Education | \$ 12,646,046 |
| Non-Operating (6 distric | cts) \$ 383,116 |
| Technology | \$ 32,425,218 |
| Flexibility | \$ 50,606,117 |
| Debt Service | \$ 53,960,991 |
| Building Reserve | \$ 77,467,667 |
| Grand Total | \$ 1,554,674,285 |
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